

5

## Claims

1. In a disc drive comprising at least one disc having a plurality of addressable sectors arranged in a plurality of tracks on a surface of the disc,  
10 the sectors being categorised into zones such that data is capable of being written to and read from different zones at different rates, a method of storing information on defective sectors comprising steps of:
- (a) sorting defective sectors by zone;
  - (b) defining a cluster comprising at least one defective sector;
  - 15 (c) selecting one sector from the cluster to be a reference sector;
  - (d) defining parameters with reference to the reference sector, the parameters describing the shape and size of the cluster;
  - (e) storing the parameters with an address of the reference sector ;
  - and
  - 20 (f) performing the steps (b) to (e) separately for each zone.
2. A method of Claim 1 wherein the defining step (b) further comprises a step of including at least one non-defective sector in the cluster.
- 25 3. A method of Claim 1 wherein the selecting step (c) includes selecting the sector with the smallest address to be the reference sector.
4. A method of Claim 1 wherein the selecting step (c) includes selecting the sector with the largest address to be the reference sector.
- 30 5. A method of Claim 1 wherein the defining step (d) further includes defining a scratch parameter characterizing the number of tracks covered by the cluster.

09851767 050901  
T06050 2975850

- 5    6.    A method of Claim 1 wherein the defining step (d) further includes defining a span parameter characterizing the number of sectors covered by the cluster along each track.
7.    A method of Claim 1 wherein the defining step (d) further includes
- 10    defining an angle parameter characterizing the angular deviation of a side of the cluster from a reference line intersecting the reference sector.
8.    A method of Claim 1 further comprising defining a radial line to be the reference line.

09851767-050901